

To: Washburn, Ben[washburn.ben@epa.gov]
From: Quirarte-Ortiz, Cecilia
Sent: Thur 3/26/2015 10:00:03 PM
Subject: RE: OPA Daily Digest 3/26/15

Posted

From: Washburn, Ben
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 3:53 PM
To: R7 Daily Digest Group
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 3/26/15

OPA Daily Digest for 3/26/15

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Roy Blunt (MO) – Email – 3/25/15: Inquiry about the removal action and ongoing health concerns at the Ellisville Superfund Site. Due: 4/8/15. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Rep. Rod Blum (IA) – Email – 3/23/15: Concerns about the cost for the city of Calmar to upgrade their wastewater treatment plant. Due: 3/26/15. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

Rep. Bill Otto – Email – 3/23/15: Questions from Harvey Ferdman regarding citizen science air monitoring program. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

Press Inquiries:

Al-Jazeera America – Ryan Schuessler – 3/16/15: Questions regarding the West Lake landfill in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

St. Louis Post-Dispatch – Jacob Barker – 3/26/15: Questions about the Findett/Hayford Bridge Road Superfund Site in St. Charles County, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Joplin Globe – Sarah Okeson – 3/26/15: Questions about the Eagle Picher Smelter Site in Galena, Kansas. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

Mitchell Daily Republic, Mitchell, S.D. – Erin Beck (freelance writer/student) – 3/25/15: Questions about EPA’s proposed framework to prevent corn rootworm resistance were referred to HQ public affairs. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

Mother Jones (blog) - Should Your State Be Able to Ignore the Nation's Most Important Pollution Law? - 3/25/15 - In any case, giving states the option to opt out of federal air quality rules essentially undermines the entire premise of the Clean Air Act, probably the most powerful piece of environmental legislation ever passed. <http://www.motherjones.com/blue-marble/2015/03/senate-gop-proposes-bill-gut-obamas-climate-plan>

Sioux City Argus Leader (Iowa) - Wind versus oil: The pipe piles up in Lincoln County - 3/25/15 - As Lincoln County residents gathered in Canton Tuesday night to talk wind energy, the sun was setting nearby on miles of steel pipe piling up for a far more traditional sort of energy project. <http://www.argusleader.com/story/news/2015/03/25/wind-versus-oil/70429136/>

The Hill - Dems intensify fight for oil train regulations - 3/26/15 - Senate Democrats unveiled an effort Wednesday to expand the scope of forthcoming regulations on trains carrying crude oil, countering a push from business groups to soften the rules. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/237013-dems-intensify-fight-for-oil-train-regulations>

Electric Co-op Today - Co-ops Urge Congress to Save Large Water Heaters - 3/24/15 - Hundreds of electric cooperatives rely on large capacity, electric-resistance water heaters in their demand response programs. But federal regulations will make them a thing of the past unless Congress acts quickly, a co-op official told a House panel. <http://www.ect.coop/public-policy-watch/legislation/electric-cooperatives-urge-congress-to-save-large-water-heaters/79364>

Cedar Rapids Gazette - Iowa House committee approves pair of eminent domain bills - 3/25/15 - An Iowa House committee approved a pair of eminent domain bills that, according to their sponsor are “very simply protect property rights” — one on a party-line vote, the other unanimous. The targets of the bill are merchant lines. <http://thegazette.com/subject/news/iowa-house-committee-approves-pair-of-eminent-domain-bills-20150325>

Greenwire - Supreme Court appears split over EPA toxics standards - 3/25/15 - A divided Supreme Court today wrestled with whether U.S. EPA should have considered compliance costs before forging ahead with its power plant emissions standards for mercury and other air toxics. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060015749>

Government Executive - How Kansas City, Kan., Is Fixing Its Sewers - 3/22/15 - Kansas City, Kansas, like so many other cities that have aging infrastructure, has been working to fix a big problem: its combined sewer system. Such systems carry both stormwater runoff and raw sewage to water treatment plants. <http://www.govexec.com/state-local/2015/03/kansas-city-sewer-plan/108145/>

Domestic Fuel - Ethanol Advocate on a Mission - 3/25/15 - Iowa cattle producer and ethanol advocate Bill Couser was a man on a mission this week in Washington DC with the American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) Fly-In. <http://domesticfuel.com/2015/03/25/ethanol-advocate-on-a-mission/>

Wall Street Journal - Opinion: The Iowa Caucuses Have a Winner: Ethanol - 3/25/15 - Presidential hopefuls love the law mandating biofuel use, but there are encouraging signs in Washington that the business handout is losing favor. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/thomas-pyle-the-iowa-caucuses-have-a-winner-ethanol-1427324726>

Quad-City Times - Quad-City residents weigh in on state topsoil requirement - 2/25/15 -

About 25 people attended a hearing Wednesday in Davenport to give and hear opinions on whether home builders and construction companies should continue to be required to put back 4 inches of topsoil onto their building sites when they are finished. http://qctimes.com/news/q-c-residents-weigh-in-on-topsoil-requirement/article_5d6b6db4-1ee9-54ad-a5aa-bd3b496c60a8.html

Clinton Herald (Iowa) - Failed pumps result in wastewater discharge - 3/25/15 - Two out of three main pumps in the Clinton wastewater collection system failed Tuesday, resulting in discharges to the Mississippi River, according to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The failure resulted in approximately 500 gallons of wastewater to be dumped into the river per hour until early afternoon Tuesday. http://www.clintonherald.com/news/local_news/updated-failed-pumps-result-in-wastewater-discharge/article_39ad6449-a23a-5939-aa13-9d8f8e931b96.html

Politico - Larry Tribe and Mitch McConnell's Flagrant Constitutional Error - 3/25/15 -

When Mitch McConnell sent his recent letter to the nation's governors urging them to ignore the White House's upcoming clean-power rules, it was striking for two reasons.

<http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/03/epa-climate-rules-mitch-mcconnell-116399.html>

Iowa Now (University of Iowa) - Study receives honor from Environmental Science and Technology Letters - 3/25/15 -

A study by University of Iowa graduate student Andrew Nelson and his colleagues on the most effective method for measuring radium in flowback water (FBW) has been selected one of the best papers of 2014 by the journal Environmental Science and Technology Letters. <http://now.uiowa.edu/2015/03/study-receives-honor-environmental-science-and-technology-letters>

Southeast Missourian (Cape Girardeau, Mo.) - Environmental groups want flood-control project vetoed - 3/26/15 -

Environmental groups say they plan to continue urging a veto of a planned Southeast Missouri flood-control project under the Clean Water Act. A public comment period on the final environmental impact statement for the long-debated St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway project is expected to open this summer. <http://www.standard-democrat.com/story/2179299.html>

Think Progress - How Corporate Agribusiness Is Quietly Gutting Local Environmental Protections - 3/26/15 - Corporate agribusinesses have managed to convince voters across the Midwest to approve vaguely-worded measures that could have wide ranging impacts, from preventing environmental legislation against factory farms to allowing animal mistreatment in slaughterhouses. <http://thinkprogress.org/economy/2015/03/26/3638977/right-to-farm-midwest/>

Domestic Fuel - EPA Changes Cellulosic Waiver Credit Provisions – 3/25/15 - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued final rulemaking this week to clarify the data sources and methodology used to calculate the Cellulosic Waiver Credit (CWC) price. <http://domesticfuel.com/2015/03/25/epa-changes-cellulosic-waiver-credit-provisions/>

Associated Press - Iowa top officials on opposites sides in EPA lawsuit - 3/25/15 - Two top Iowa elected officials are on the opposite sides of a lawsuit the U.S. Supreme Court is considering. <http://www.kcrg.com/subject/news/iowa-top-officials-on-opposites-sides-in-epa-lawsuit-20150325>

Media Matters - The Koch Brothers' Campaign Against EPA Climate Safeguards Is In Your Newspaper - 3/25/15 - At least 16 U.S. newspapers have recently published op-eds by state officials of Americans for Prosperity (AFP), the Koch brothers' political advocacy group, urging state legislatures to oppose the EPA's plan to address climate change by limiting carbon pollution from power plants. These newspapers have consistently failed to disclose the authors' oil industry ties. <http://mediamatters.org/research/2015/03/25/the-koch-brothers-campaign-against-epa-climate/203041>

New York Times - Supreme Court Seems Split on What Is 'Appropriate' in Setting Clean Air Costs - 3/26/15 - The Supreme Court on Wednesday seemed closely divided over the fate of one of the Obama administration's most ambitious environmental initiatives, Environmental Protection Agency regulations that set limits on emissions of mercury and other toxic pollutants from power plants. <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/26/us/division-seen-in-supreme-court-on-pollution-limits.html>

Bloomberg BNA - High Court Appears Split on EPA Decision Not to Consider Cost of Mercury Regulation – 3/25/15 - - Supreme Court justices appeared to have differing views on whether the Environmental Protection Agency adequately considered the costs of regulating emissions of mercury and other hazardous air pollutants from power plants. <http://www.bna.com/high-court-appears-n17179924569/>

Wall Street Journal - Supreme Court Appears Divided on EPA Rules to Limit Mercury Emissions | Should \$9.6 Billion in Annual Costs Have Been Part of Initial Evaluation? - 3/26/15 - The Supreme Court appeared split on Wednesday over whether the Environmental Protection Agency erred when it adopted first-ever regulations requiring power plants to cut emissions of mercury and other toxic air pollutants. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/supreme-court-appears-divided-on-epa-rules-to-limit-mercury-emissions-1427305800>

Forbes - EPA Grilled At Supreme Court Over Refusal To Consider Costs - 3/25/15 - The Environmental Protection Agency got a skeptical reception at the U.S. Supreme Court over its refusal to consider costs when it imposed new pollution controls on electric power plants, as conservative justices asked whether it was arbitrary and capricious to compel utilities to spend billions of dollars to eliminate a relatively minor amount of mercury from their emissions. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/danielfisher/2015/03/25/epa-grilled-at-supreme-court-over-refusal-to-consider-costs/>

SCOTUS Blog - Argument analysis: EPA may be a vote short — or not - 3/25/15 - Each time the Environmental Protection Agency is before the Supreme Court these days, it gets a reminder that it is not likely to get the benefit of the doubt that it used its regulatory powers entirely legally. <http://www.scotusblog.com/2015/03/argument-analysis-epa-may-be-a-vote-short-or-not/>

Iowa Public Radio - Obama Administration Emissions Rules Face Supreme Court Test - 3/26/15 - The Supreme Court hears a challenge Wednesday to Obama administration rules aimed at limiting the amount of mercury and other hazardous pollutants emitted from coal- and oil-fired utility plants. The regulations are being challenged by major industry groups like the National Mining Association and more than 20 states. <http://iowapublicradio.org/post/obama-administration-emissions-rules-face-supreme-court-test>

Associated Press - Justices seem divided over EPA mercury limits - 3/25/15 - The Supreme Court's conservative justices cast doubt Wednesday on the Obama administration's first-ever regulations aimed at reducing power plant emissions of mercury and other hazardous air pollutants that contribute to respiratory illnesses, birth defects and developmental problems in children. <http://www.kansascity.com/living/health-fitness/article16249709.html>

Huffington Post - Column: Polluters Again Challenge Common-Sense Public-Health Protections at the Supreme Court - 3/25/15 - Today the Supreme Court will hear polluter arguments against the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) vital Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS), a long-overdue protection finalized in 2012 that will help guard our families, air, water, and wildlife. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mary-anne-hitt/polluters-again-challenge_b_6940084.html

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

Example: EPA Inspection Reveals Violations of Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule for RDF Inc. in Lincoln, Neb. – 3/19/15 – Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

Example: Time-Critical Removal Action, Chemco Industries, Inc., Superfund Site, Topeka, Kansas - 2/8/08 - Contact: Belinda Young, 7463

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

5/13/15 – Midwest Environmental Compliance Conference, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Dave Cozad, 7587

6/23-24/15 – Four State Directors Meeting, Moravia, Iowa. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

DRA:

6/23-24/15 – Four State Directors Meeting, Moravia, Iowa. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

3/26/15 – Attending the Iowa Emergency Response Commission meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Pat Reitz, 7674.

3/26/15– Participating in the NE Neighborhood Association Meeting. Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Mark Smith, 7876.

3/30/2015 – Meeting with the Wichita IMCP and Wichita State University regarding the Pollution Prevention Economy, Energy and Environment program, Wichita, Kan. Contact: Jim Callier, 7646.

3/30/ - 4/02/15 – Participating in Kansas Organization of Recyclers Conference in Wichita, Kan. Contact: Jim Callier, 7646.

3/31/ - 04/02/15 – Participating in Joint Region 5, 6 and 7 Pollution Prevention Roundtable Meeting in St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Jennifer Dawani, 7162 and Marcus Rivas, 7669.

4/02-03/15 - Food Recovery presentations to the Missouri Milk, Food, and Environmental

Health Association in Osage Beach, Mo. Contact: Gayle Hubert, 7439.

4/13/15 – Participating in TRI workshop, Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Karen Johnson, 5014.

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

3/26/15 – KU Environmental Studies Class, Lawrence, Ks. Contact: Brendan Corazzin, 7429

3/22-4/3/15 – Federal Executive Institute Training, Charlottesville, Va. Contact: DeAndre Singletary, 7373

3/27/15 –Historic Northeast Neighborhood Association Community meeting, Kansas City, Ks. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

3/31/2015 – Trailnet Meeting and Bicycle Tour, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Brendan Corazzin, 7429

4/7/15 – Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Karim Dawani, 7289

4/14/15 – Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Karim Dawani, 7289

4/22/15 – Boys and Girls Club Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contacts: Tamara Freeman, 7094; Pamela Houston, 7699

4/22/15 – Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Karim Dawani, 7289

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

3/22-4/3/15 – Federal Executive Institute Training, Charlottesville, Va. Contact: Curtis Carey, 7506

SUPR

None

WWPD

3/31-4/1/15 – American Water Works Association Annual Meeting speaker, Osage Beach, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

4/9/15 – Missouri Safe Drinking Water Commission Meeting, St. Joseph, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

5/1-4/15 – River Network River Rally 2015, Santa Ana Pueblo, N.M. Contact: Roberta Vogel-Leutung, 7072

5/11-14/15 – Data Managers User Conference for the Safe Drinking Water Information System, Denver, Colo. Contacts: Kim Burr, 7069, Jay Hua, 7748

Benjamin M. Washburn

Public Affairs Specialist

EPA Region 7

(913) 551-7364